

TOP SECRET

25X1

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

File mc&g

THE NRO STAFF

16 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Additional Doppler Beacons for CORONA

REFERENCE: a.

b.

25X1

As a result of COMIREX action in the fall of 1967, the NRO was requested to recommend a means to gain improved missile target positioning data for the 1970 time frame since the requirement of [redacted] and [redacted] (90% assurance) was not being met through then existing photographic satellite systems. In response to this request, the NRO has taken action to incorporate the transit doppler beacons into four of the remaining CORONA missions [redacted]

25X1

25X1

In August of 1969, action was initiated within the COMIREX MC&G Working Group to seek USIB approval for increasing the number of KH-4/doppler launches. This effort has culminated in the USIB stating it has no objection to three additional launches, which would correspond to a doppler beacon on all the remaining CORONA missions carrying the dual improved stellar index camera (DISIC). As part of NRO coordination on the COMIREX action, I have on two occasions (reference a and b) advised [redacted] in his capacity as the Chairman, COMIREX MC&G Working Group, that whereas additional launches can be accommodated in the KH-4 schedule, funding for such an effort would represent unanticipated and unprogrammed costs under the NRP and should therefore be provided by DOD as the sole requiring agency. [redacted] has informed me that in his COMIREX capacity he can take no action with regard to DOD fiscal matters, thus I am taking this opportunity to inform you of the situation directly. It should be emphasized that the number of KH-4/doppler missions has always been an arbitrary

25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL [redacted]
COPY 1 OF 3 COPIES
PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

TOP SECRET

25X1

figure. The original USIB approval in November of 1968 was for five launches. This figure was reduced to four in December 1968 based on budget and schedule considerations.

In December of 1969, the NRO was informally asked by members of your staff to study the problem of how many KH-4/doppler missions would be required. A target list has since been furnished from ACIC to form the basis for this study, and work has been initiated. Since the study must be accomplished in addition to the already heavy work load resulting from current satellite operations and preparation of software [redacted] it is unlikely that definitive results can be produced prior to the middle of February. I have been advised by the project office that funding and go-ahead for additional dopplers are required no later than 1 March 1970 in order to avoid additional start-up costs by not taking advantage of the present doppler beacon procurement. It may therefore be necessary that DOD identify the source and amount of available funds to support this effort prior to analysis of the study results.

By means of the referenced memoranda, [redacted] has been kept apprised of current estimates for the cost of procuring and integrating additional doppler beacons. This has included some unique costs associated with modifying an older satellite vehicle to support an August 1970 launch, this launch having been indicated by your staff as particularly desirable. Our latest estimates are reflected below:

Modification of older flight vehicle for August 1970 launch; first additional beacon integration and antenna procurement	[redacted]
Second additional beacon integration and antenna procurement	
Third additional beacon integration and antenna procurement	
Procurement of three additional beacons at [redacted]	
Total	

The August 1970 launch should probably be avoided. Apart from being more expensive, installation of a doppler beacon on this particular vehicle would reduce mission lifetime by up to a day. The NRO would require specific COMIREX approval

TOP SECRETEXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL NO. [redacted]
COPY 3 OF 4 COPIES
PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

TOP SECRET



25X1

before incurring such a reduction in search capability. A second option would be to add doppler beacons to the two later missions carrying the DISIC. The cost in this case would be:

First additional beacon integration
and antenna procurement

Second additional beacon integration
and antenna procurement

Procurement of two additional beacons
at [redacted]

Total



25X1

The CORONA launch schedule showing those missions currently including the doppler beacon and/or the DISIC is attached. Missions 1115 and 1116 are DISIC missions to which beacons could be added. A possible variation would be to add a beacon to Mission 1114 along with the DISIC now scheduled for Mission 1116. This would afford a more continuous doppler beacon launch sequence. A third additional doppler mission can only be achieved by modifying Mission 1111 (August launch).

The NRO is prepared to take action to satisfy the DOD requirement for additional CORONA/doppler beacon missions as soon as the matter of funding can be resolved. Specific requirements as to desired schedule and photographic criteria should be referred through the COMIREX MC&G Working Group. It is understood that a memorandum from the Working Group officially requesting the aforementioned mission number study is in preparation.



LEW ALLEN, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

25X1

Atch
CORONA Schedule

Cy to: [redacted] Chairman,
COMIREX MC&G Working Group
Chairman, COMIREX
[redacted] SS-4

25X1

TOP SECRET

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL N [redacted]
COPY 3 OF 4 COPIES
PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP79B01709A000400030028-6

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP79B01709A000400030028-6